

KELLOGGSVILLE CONNECTIONS

April, 2019

The Connections is a monthly publication of church news and events. The next one will be published on May 5. The deadline for submissions is the Tuesday before publication.

Upcoming Sundays

April 7

Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am: Prayer Time
 9:30 am: Worship Service
 (Pastor Martin)

April 14

Palm Sunday

9:30 am: "Tale of Three Trees" Intergenerational
 Worship Service
 4-6 pm: MS/HS Youth
 Group

April 19 (Friday)

Good Friday; Communion

6:30 pm: Good Friday
 Worship Service

April 21

Easter Sunday

8:30 am: Easter
 Celebration Breakfast
 9:30 am: Easter Worship
 Service (Pastor Martin)

April 28

9:30 am: Worship Service
 (Brian VanderBie)
 4-6 pm: MS/HS Youth
 Group

Kelloggsville Church
 610 - 52nd St. SE
 Kentwood, MI 49548
 616-534-0085
 www.kcrc.org

Big Days are Coming to Kelloggsville

-Pastor Martin

We all have "big days" in our lives, special days that involve thought, planning, preparation, and – hopefully – a sense of "we can't wait!" When was the last "big day" in your/your family's life?

In his book *Ignite*, minister and author Nelson Searcy writes, "You've had big days in your life.

Think about the day you graduated from high school or college, the day you got married, or the day your first child was born. These are the days that

change everything. They infuse a new spark into life. And they are not days that happen haphazardly, are they? No, they are days you plan for, prepare for, and eagerly look toward. You want to be ready when they get here, so you study hard, and ace all your exams; you buy a suit or a dress and send out invitations months in advance; you put furniture together and paint the nursery wall. Why? So that when the big day comes you have everything in place. You are ready for it. You are positioned to fully receive the change it is going to bring into your life." (p. 23)

Searcy goes on to ask, "If we plan big days in our lives and those days have the potential to change everything for us, why can't we assume that the same

truth would apply in our churches? Couldn't big days help us move toward where we want to be?"

I like his thinking, and for me, two of those "big days" are coming up in our church: days that can help us move more fully towards our priorities of *growing young* – the importance of prioritizing children, youth, young adults, and their families everywhere



in this church, and *missional living* - this desire to increase the temperature of Kelloggsville's outward focus to live on mission and love even more

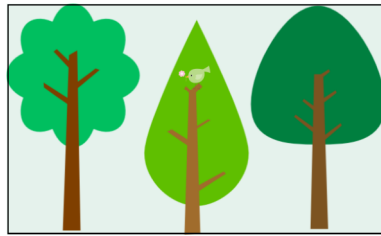
people toward God.

For our last session of Discovery, many volunteers—children, youth, and adults—have been practicing and participating in different inter-generational activities, all with the intent of planning and preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter, the two "big days" that I'm referring to in this article. Special thanks to Melissa VanderMeulen for the tremendous amount of work she has done to dream, plan, and organize these activities for all ages. Thanks also to the volunteers who said "yes" to leading the various groups, and a great big thanks to all those who showed up and participated! Here are just some of the things that we've done during these five weeks of Discovery:



Big Days, cont. from p. 1

- Our “hospitality” group, led by Katie Vandenberg and Mari Kuipers, made hundreds of giveaway gifts for Palm Sunday and Easter, facilitated a card making campaign for college students, and assembled and delivered care packages to our church’s college students.
- Our “Tale of Three Trees” group, led by Joy Petersen (actors), Bobbi Oostema, Marisa DenBoer, Mark Podbregar, and Brayden Podbregar (sets and costumes), and Melissa VanderMeulen (kids’ choir), practiced songs, built sets, sewed costumes, made props and decorations, learned lines, and of course—practiced the musical together, in preparation for our April 14 service.
- Our “Easter choir” group, led by Sarah Cupery, learned two songs that they will be sharing as part of our Easter service.



worship as they share “A Tale of Tree Trees”: a musical about three trees who discover that God has a plan for each of them. This will be an exciting day, a great day to invite family, friends and neighbors who can enjoy being led by our youth, and allow us to reach new people. Like the three trees, we all long for purpose and meaning, to know that our lives matter and that we make a difference. The bible tells us that God *created* us this way! He created us for community, and for a purpose. The bible further tells us that we can only truly find our purpose when we connect with the church, discover who Jesus is, and follow him. In the church, we find both community and purpose.



about being your guest at this service, and give them the invitation that was in your church mailbox this past week as a “save the date”.

The next opportunity we have is Easter Sunday, April 21. We begin with breakfast at 8:30, which is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors (who doesn’t like food!!), and then we have our “big day” Easter Celebration at 9:30. We will enjoy special music from our Easter choir, lots of singing with our praise band, and just spending time together celebrating the great news that Jesus has risen - risen indeed!

Here is my request, that we would be so bold as to pray that God would lead new people into our community, but much more importantly that God would lead new people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Please keep these two upcoming “big day” Sundays in your prayers, and boldly pray that God is at work through them. Please affirm our children and youth and welcome any visitors who come. Serving with you in Christ’s name and for his glory, *Pastor Martin*

The April 14th worship service will be a special service in which the children and youth, along with our praise band, lead us in

It is my prayer that this April 14 service helps us live a little more into our priority of missional living, creating an opportunity to love even more people toward God. My challenge to you is that you would ask God to help you find an opportunity this week to talk with a friend or neighbor

Requested Announcement

CranHill Camp is hiring staff and registering campers! The traditions of CranHill Summer Camp are brought to life by the dedication and enthusiasm of our new and returning staff. Being a part of the CranHill

team is a rewarding responsibility. It is also an opportunity to have one of the best summers of your life. Make a positive difference for yourself and the kids you care for! To discover what positions are still available and

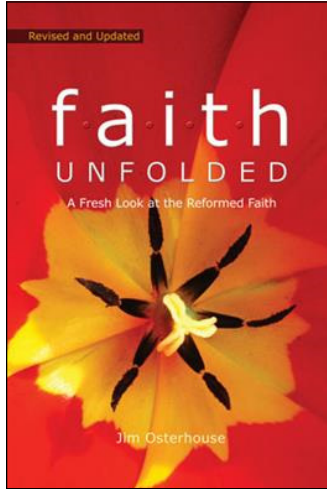
to apply, visit www.cranhillranch.com/apply. And parents of kids ages 7-17, consider signing them up for a week-long camping experience this summer! www.cranhillranch.com/summercamp.

F.A.I.T.H. Unfolded

Have you ever wondered what it means to be a Christian? Most would say that Christians believe Jesus died for their sins, and that because of Jesus' sacrifice, they have decided to follow Jesus as the one who has authority over their life. That is, Christians believe Jesus is their Savior and Lord. They decide to trust and follow Jesus.

But have you ever wondered what it means to be a *Reformed* Christian?

Using the resource "Faith Unfolded" by CRC pastor and theology professor Jim



Osterhouse, we will spend the five Sundays after Easter in a sermon series that takes a fresh look at the Reformed Christian faith by learning the acronym "FAITH":

- Fallen Humanity
- Adopted by God
- Intentional Atonement
- Transformed by the Holy Spirit
- Held by God

We will learn about how those who are dead in their sin depend completely, from beginning to end, on the work of God. In the story of the Bible, God is the main actor, and only because of his intervention in our

lives are we able to trust in God and his promises. As Osterhouse writes, "Things are not always as they seem. Think of the gate of heaven as having a wrought-iron arch overhead. As you approach the gate you read the words 'Whoever Will May Come' and you decide to walk through the gate. Once inside you turn and read the arch from heaven's perspective: 'Chosen from All Eternity'. Those who believe in Jesus for their salvation realize that it is God who gives them faith and God who keeps them in the faith. They can take none of the credit. All the glory belongs to God."

Join us for this fresh look at the Reformed faith.

-Pastor Martin

Missionary Visit from the Shaardas on May 5

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a special evening at church with missionaries Josh and Mandy Shaarda



on Sunday, May 5 at 5:00 PM. Josh and Mandy and their kids — Lydia, Grace, Luka, and Emalai—will be sharing

about their lives and work in Uganda. The presentation will be engaging for all ages.

We will extend our time of communion and fellowship together with a meal after the Shaarda's presentation. We hope to see you there!

Requested Announcement

Please join us for Exalta Health's ArtFeast 7 on Thursday, May 16 at Aaltech Automotive Service (3663 Broadmoor Ave SE) from 5:30-8:30 PM! ArtFeast 7 is a fun and unique event showcasing the artwork of local artists, many of whom will be in attendance personally displaying their work, and some even creating

live art! Visit with the artists and enjoy hors d'oeuvres, live music and fellowship with friends. You can shop for artwork and other merchandise in or bid on items in the live and silent auctions. All proceeds of this event will help Exalta Health provide comprehensive, quality, accessible healthcare to our

community including medical, dental, counseling, and spiritual care services. Don't miss out on our **early bird special** - \$65/ticket now thru April 15 (\$75/ticket after April 15). To buy tickets visit our website at www.exaltahealth.org/events/artfeast-7/ or email Sarah at spegman@exaltahealth.org.

April Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY/SATURDAY
APRIL 7 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:00 am: Group Prayer Time 9:30 am: Worship Service 11 am: Distribute Fliers in Neighborhood for April 14 & 21 Services 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	8	9	10 9:30 am: Joy Club 3:15 pm: GRiver Prep Student Bible Study 6 pm: Deacons 7 pm: Council	11 8:15 am: Griver Prep Prayer Group	12/13 Sat: 8am-12pm: Church Work Day Sat: 10am-12pm: Tale of 3 Trees Dress Rehearsal Sat: 2-4 pm: Kaye Noorman's 90 th Birthday Open House (FLC) Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
14 Palm Sunday 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: "Tale of Three Trees" Intergenerational Worship Service 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service 4-6 pm: MS/HS Youth Group	15	16 7 pm: Men's Network Bible Study	17 3:15 pm: GRiver Prep Student Bible Study 6:45 pm: Cadets 7 pm: Shepherd Leaders	18 8:15 am: Griver Prep Prayer Group 5:30-7 pm: Alliance FC	19/20 Good Friday (19th) Fri: 6:30 pm: Good Friday Worship Service Fri: 5-8 pm: French Good Friday Service Sat: 5-8 pm: French Saturday Vigil Service Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
21 Easter 6-7 am: Chin Sunrise Service 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 8:30 am: Easter Breakfast 9:30 am: Easter Worship Service 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	22	23	24 3:15 pm: GRiver Prep Student Bible Study 7 pm: Elders	25 8:15 am: Griver Prep Prayer Group	26/27 Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
28 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship Service 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service 4-6 pm: MS/HS Youth Group	29	30	MAY 1 9:30 am: Joy Club 3:15 pm: GRiver Prep Student Bible Study 6:45 pm: Cadets	2 8:15 am: Griver Prep Prayer Group 9:00 am: Senior Singles Brkfast	3/4 Friday-Sunday: Cadet Spring Camp Out Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group

Birthdays to Celebrate

Birthdays of Members 70+

April 11—Mary Lou Hofman (70)

April 23—Lorraine Kuipers (84)

May 1—Shirley Heyboer (76)

May 4—Arlene Pelton (79)

May 6—Toots Hoekstra (83)

May 7—Bonnie Vlasblom (70)

May 21—Ann VanderWal (79)

Staff/Missionary Birthdays

April 5—Josh Shaarda

April 21—Bob Timmer

April 25—Caspar Geisterfer

May 17—Melanie Doezema

